

SNOWBOARD BOOT WITH LINER HARNESS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

2008
8/19/05

This application is a continuation-in-part of copending U.S. Patent Application
5 No. 10/365,725, filed February 11, 2003, ^{now Patent No. 6,877,256} priority to which is claimed, and the disclosures
of which are hereby expressly incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to sports boots and, more specifically, to a
sports boot having an internal harness.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Many boots, and particularly boots for sporting applications such as skiing,
snowboarding, skating, hiking, and the like, are intended to be worn with a boot liner that
fits inside the boot between the boot and the user's foot. The liner may be removable
from the boot or permanently attached to the boot. The liner provides many benefits—for
15 example, a liner conforms to the shape of the user's foot, providing a more exact fit
between the user and the boot. The liner also helps to keep the user's foot warm, provides
padding to the user, absorbs accumulated perspiration and other moisture, and provides a
comfortable, snug fit between the user's foot and ankle and the boot. Removable liners
have the advantage of being easily cleaned and replaced, as needed. Frequently, liners
20 are provided with a relatively stiff and durable sole portion to protect the liner from
excessive wear.

Prior art boot liners may be simply sock-type liners wherein the liner is generally
L-shaped and tubular, with sufficient stretchability and flexibility to receive the user's
foot. These types of liners can be difficult for the user to put on and take off. Often, a
25 longitudinal vamp comprising a slit and tongue is provided in the liner to facilitate putting